

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7257

BILL NUMBER: HB 1457

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 10, 2009

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Invasive Species.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Kersey

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: *Invasive Species Council.* This bill establishes the Invasive Species Council within the Purdue University College of Agriculture. The bill requires the council to establish a cooperative weed management program to protect the diversity of natural areas in Indiana to (1) promote the creation of cooperative weed management areas; and (2) create partnerships that create opportunities for contiguous landowners to work together in the management of invasive plants that threaten natural lands and native biological diversity. It staggers the initial terms of the appointed council members.

Invasive Species Council Fund. The bill establishes the Invasive Species Council Fund.

Project Workgroup. The bill establishes a project workgroup to recommend cooperative weed management plans to the council.

Cooperative Weed Management Fund. The bill establishes the Cooperative Weed Management Fund.

Effective Date: July 1, 2009.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Invasive Species Council.* The council is established within the Purdue University College of Agriculture. The council consists of 11 members: 6 state employees and 4 lay members and one local employee or lay member.

Members of the council serve without compensation. Subject to the availability of money in the Invasive Species Fund (see below), members who are not state or county employees are entitled to reimbursement for traveling expenses as provided in the Purdue University travel policies and procedures. The impact of this

provision is not expected to be significant.

The Purdue University College of Agriculture shall provide administrative assistance to the council. Purdue should be able to provide administrative assistance given its existing level of resources.

Invasive Species Council Fund. The fund is established as a separate fund in the Purdue University treasury to carry out the purposes of the council. The fund is administered by the council. The fund consists of grants, appropriations, gifts, and donations. Expenses of administering the fund must be paid from money in the fund. The Purdue University Treasurer must invest the money in the fund not currently needed to meet the obligations of the fund in the same manner as other public funds may be invested. Interest that accrues from these investments must be deposited in the fund. Money in the fund at the end of a state fiscal year does not revert to the state General Fund.

The bill contains no appropriation for the fund.

Cooperative Weed Management Fund. The bill establishes the Fund as a separate fund in the Purdue University treasury for the purpose of funding projects approved by the council. The fund is administered by the council. Expenses of administering the fund are paid from money in the fund. The Invasive Species Council may provide matching grants from the fund. The Purdue University treasurer must invest the money in the fund not currently needed to meet the obligations of the fund in the same manner as other public funds may be invested. Interest that accrues from these investments must be deposited in the fund. Money in the fund at the end of a state fiscal year does not revert to the state General Fund or to any other fund.

Not more than 10% of the money in the fund may be used for administration and promotion of the cooperative weed management program. The balance of money in the fund, after expenditures, may be used for the costs of services and expenses related to implementation of approved cooperative weed management plans.

Each grant provided from the fund must be matched by funds provided by the recipient. The council may not provide more than 50% of the funds for a project.

The bill does not specify sources of revenue for the fund. The bill contains no appropriation for the fund.

Project Workgroup. The bill establishes the Project Workgroup, which consists of five members. The workgroup may not meet more than once per quarter. The workgroup may convene a meeting at any location in Indiana. The purpose of the workgroup is to review cooperative weed management plans, recommend plans to the council, and provide technical advice and assistance to the council. The bill does not specify compensation for members of the workgroup.

Explanation of State Revenues: See *Explanation of State Expenditures* above.

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues: Local units may be able to obtain grants.

State Agencies Affected: Purdue University College of Agriculture; Indiana State Department of Agriculture; Indiana Department of Transportation; the State Veterinarian; and the Division of Fish and Wildlife and the Division of Entomology and Plant Pathology of the Department of Natural Resources.

Local Agencies Affected: Potentially all.

Information Sources: John Baugh, Director, Agriculture Services and Regulations, Purdue University, Office of the Dean of Agriculture, AGAD Building, 615 W. State Street, West Lafayette , IN 47907-2053, 765-494-8392.

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